

### REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in reply to the Restriction Requirement dated February 25, 2003. Therefore, the time period for reply extends up to and includes March 25, 2003. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 15 – 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer as being drawn to a non-elected method. New claims 21 - 26 have been added. No new matter has been entered hereby, and such claims are fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. Claims 1 – 14 and 21- 26 are pending in this application.

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1 - 14 drawn to an apparatus of a reduced lubricant accumulating slider for further prosecution on the merits. Claims 15 - 20 (Group II) drawn to a method of reducing lubricant accumulation in a slider, have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 15 – 20 in a divisional application.

New claims 21 - 26 have been added and are drawn to the subject matter of Group I. Consideration of the new claims is requested.

### Conclusion

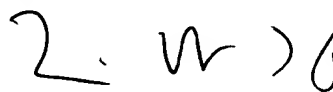
In view of the above amendments and comments presented herein, favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions in regard to the foregoing, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' attorney below at (612) 336-4755.



Dated: 25 March 2003

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903



Brian H. Batzli  
Reg. No. 32,960  
BBATZLI:dc



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Applicant:  | NATH ET AL.                           | Examiner:       | Minh Le       |
| Serial No.: | 09/884,837                            | Group Art Unit: | 2652          |
| Filed:      | JUNE 19, 2001                         | Docket No.:     | 30874.106USU1 |
| Title:      | REDUCED LUBRICANT ACCUMULATING SLIDER |                 |               |

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Claims 21 – 26 are new.

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